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$1.50 US
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MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS
WOLVERINE
ALSO:
THE SENSATIONAL SHE-HULK
30 YEARS
X-MEN
1963-1993

MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS WOLVERINE

James Fry/Hector Collazo — COVER
Terry Kavanagh — EDITOR
Mark Powers — ASSISTANT EDITOR
Tom DeFalco — EDITOR IN CHIEF

pg.

WOLVERINE/ LYNX 1

PASSION PLAY
Part 3 of 8
"ON A WING AND A PRAYER"

As Wolverine and the Courier battled over the fate of the Lynx, the mystery girl disappeared...in the clutches of Le Peregrine! But what is his connection...?

Writer — SCOTT LOBDELL
Penciler— DENNIS JENSEN
Inker —JOHN HOLREDGE
Letterer — UL HIGGINS
Colorist —KELLY CORVESE

pg.

SHE-HULK 9

ADRENAZON'S REVENGE
Part 3 of 4
"IT'S NOT EASY BEING GREEN"

Adrenazon has managed to flush She-Hulk out of hiding. Jennifer learned that this whole set-up is a plot for revenge by Adrian Lynn and that she and Adrenazon are one and the same. But time is running out as the adrenaline formula starts to break down chemically in Adrenazon's system...

Writer — KELLY CORVESE
Penciler — DAVE HOOVER
Inker—ROBERT CAMPANELLA
Letterer — UL HIGGINS
Colorist — KELLY CORVESE

MARVEL ® COMICS PRESENTS™ Vol. 1, No. 125, 1993. (ISSN #1044-7180) Published by MARVEL COMICS. Terry Stewart, President. Stan Lee, Publisher. Michael Hobson, Group Vice President, Publishing. OFFICE OF PUBLICATION: 387 PARK AVENUE SOUTH, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10016. SECOND CLASS POSTAGE PAID AT NEW YORK, N.Y. AND AT ADDITIONAL MAILING OFFICES. Published biweekly.

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POSTMASTER: SEND ADDRESS CHANGES TO: MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS, c o MARVEL COMICS, SUBSCRIPTION DEPARTMENT, 387 PARK AVENUE SOUTH, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10016. Printed in Canada.

MARVEL READERS PRESENT

c/o Marvel Comics Group
387 Park Avenue South, New York, NY 10016
Attention Correspondents: All letters to be considered for publication must include your name and address though we will withhold that info by request!

Dear Terry,

I've just recently started reading MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS again, after a long hiatus. It was Sam Kieth's art on a Wolverine story that lured me to this title approximately a year ago, and it is his wonderful art that has brought me back once more. Nobody draws Wolverine better than Sam! Though the story seems a little confusing to me (unlike the previous Sam Kieth/ Wolverine story written by Peter David), the art on this feature alone is worth the cover price. If you really want to increase readership, I suggest hiring Sam Kieth to do a story in every issue of MCP.

Besides Sam's Wolverine, I have found another gem between these pages: The Ghost Rider/Cloak & Dagger story was simply wonderful! Both art and story were very well done. Cloak and Dagger are great characters, with such potential. If done correctly, they could once again have their own title. I, for one, would most definitely buy it!

The Andromeda story was pretty entertaining, as well. The summoning of the Kraken reminded me of "Clash of the Titans" (One of my favorite movies when I was much, much younger!). Thanks for the memories.

The Mirage story was okay.

Mark Johnson
1734 Shadewood Lane
San Diego, CA 92139

We're glad to have you back, Mark.

Dear Terry and Co,

Re: Issue #120:

Covers: Both rate 2 3/4 Claws. It's as simple as that, this time.

Wolverine: Things are looking up for this saga. I thought the shot of Wolvie with the cigar in hand looked precious. Not that smoking is to be condoned, but it's good to see our fuzzy little Canadian mutant smiling again—something he hasn't done in a long time. 2 1/2 Claws.

Constrictor: What I think we have here is a solid story told in two parts which actually does something other than merely amuse—it helps develop a character. I, for one, would be glad to see Constrictor switch allegiances to the "good" side. The art, although competent, could use a little work, but the writing was right on. (But, c'mon, really, "Drop dead, fed?" Heh, heh...) 3 Claws.

Ghost Rider: The coloring in this story looks just great. Fred Mendez deserves a lot of credit and praise for what he did with this story. Just wondering, though: Is that Dagger, Jubilee, Dazzler, or Barbie on the last page, third panel? 2 1/4 Claws.

Spider-Man: A pleasant little tale, although I didn't feel the suspense necessary to pull off the story. It's just that I don't expect a great revelation in the Spider-Man mythos to happen in MCP. I think this story would've worked better as a back-up story over in AMAZING SPIDER-MAN. However, that said, I still enjoyed it. I love those trick little endings. 2 1/2 Claws.

Augie De Blieck Jr.
58 Edson Place
North Haledon, NJ 07508

We're glad you enjoyed this issue, Augie, especially Fred's coloring. He's been MCP's one constant, having colored every Ghost Rider installment since we began running it as a regular feature in issue #90. Alas, just like Lou Gherig, his streak has come to an end. But he'll be back.

WE FRENCH HAVE A SAYING I AM ABOUT TO MAKE UP...
...' THERE IS NOTHING MORE ATTRACTIVE THAN A WOMAN WHO KNOWS WHAT SHE WANTS.'
YEEOOW!
Passion Play
PART THREE
FEATURING
WOLVERINE
AND
THE LYNX
THAT SAID, THE LYNX IS ARGUABLY THE MOST ATTRACTIVE WOMAN IN THE WORLD.
WHAT SHE WANTS... IS HER FREEDOM.
A WING AND A PRAYER

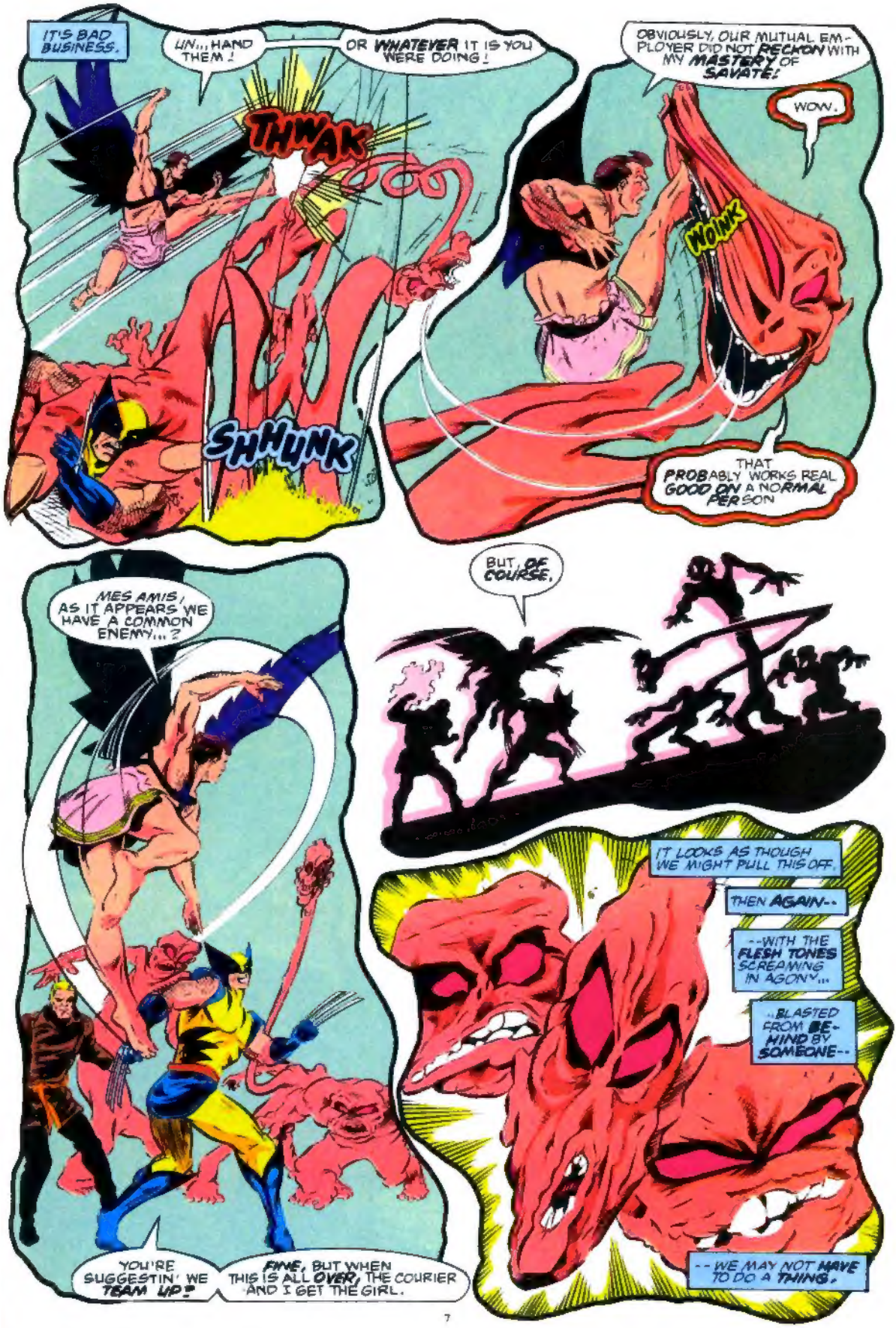
BE THANKFUL, MON AMI, SHE ONLY BIT YOUR FINGER.
YOU SHOULD SEE WHAT SHE DID TO POOR JAVERT.
YES, WELL... SCHEME... I'M NOT IN THE CUSTOM OF WRESTLING WITH MY PATIENTS.
I TRUST THE ONE MILLION DOLLARS AN HOUR I'M PAYING EACH OF YOU--
--WILL MORE THAN COMPENSATE FOR YOUR HARDSHIPS.
THOUGH I WOULD WILLINGLY PAY TWICE THAT--
--IF THIS WOMAN IS INDEED THE KEY TO CURING MY... CONDITION.
HMMP.
WISH I HAD KNOWN THAT WHEN I WAS NEGOTIATING MY OWN FEE.
NOW, YOUNG LADY...
GRRRRR
WHY DON'T YOU-- COOPERA
AIGHH!
INGRATE!
CAN'T YOU SEE I'M TRYING TO HELP YOU?!
WAP
PERHAPS WHEN SHE REGAINS CONSCIOUSNESS, MONSIEUR CHAMPION...?
I DID NOT HIRE YOU FOR YOUR WIT, LE PEREGRINE.
NO, SIR, YOU DID NOT.
IF YOU WILL... PARDONEZ-MOI...?

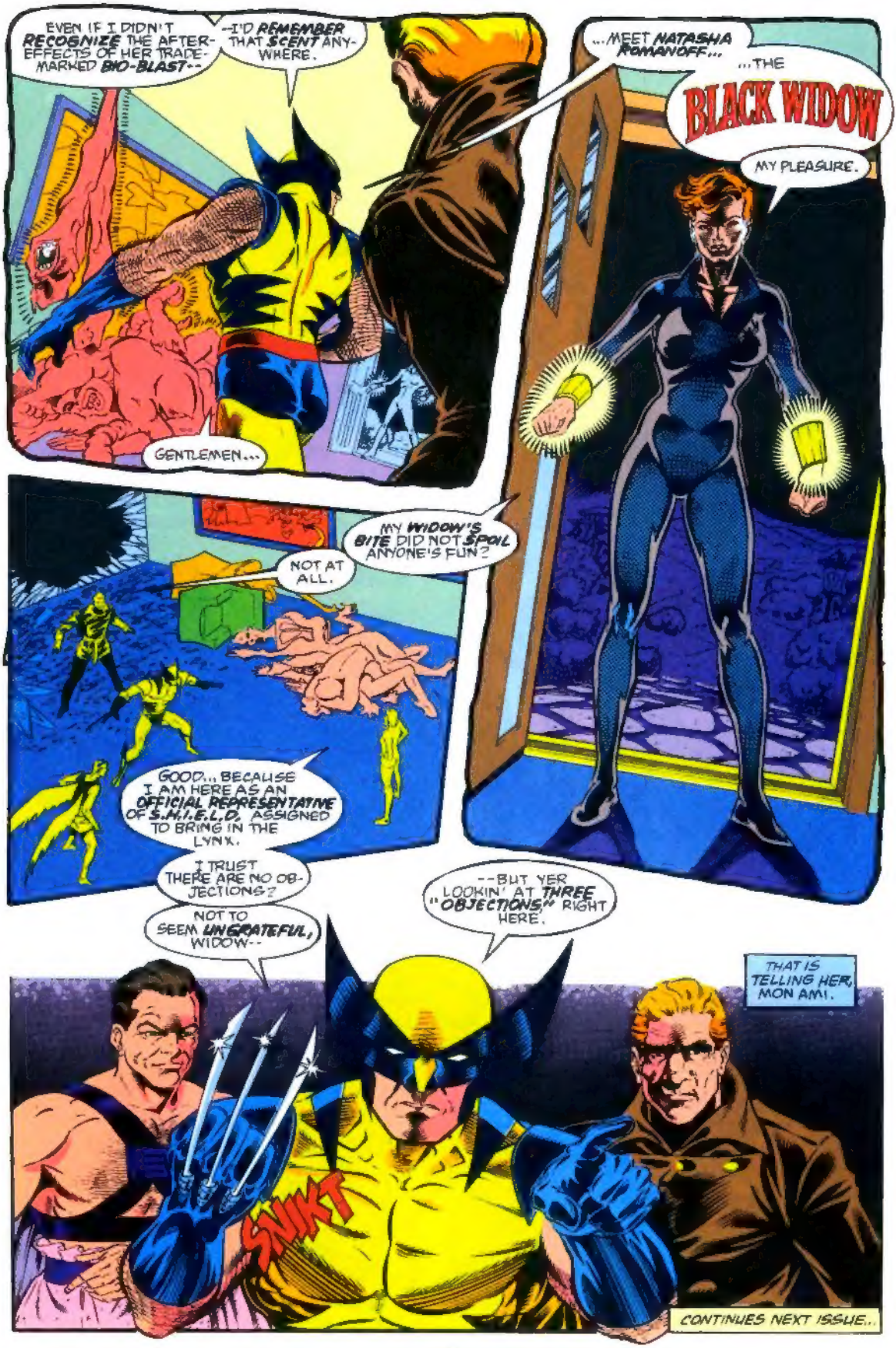
I HAVE A DATE WITH A HOT SHOWER.
I'M AFRAID I AM GETTING SOFT IN MY OLD AGE.
THERE WAS A TIME I WOULD HAVE DELIVERED THE MADEMOISELLE TO MY CLIENT--
--AND THOUGHT NOTHING OF IT.
SO WHY IS IT DIFFERENT THIS TIME?
HERE I AM SHOWERING, THREE FLOORS ABOVE HER.
WHY DON'T I FEEL... CLEAN?
MORE IMPORTANTLY, WHERE IS MY TOWEL?
TRES GAUCHE.
YOU WOULD THINK THE FIFTH RICHEST MAN IN THE WORLD--
--COULD AFFORD AN EXTRA SET OF--
--GUEST...
...LINEN?
LOOKIN' FOR THIS, BUB?
COURIER...
...AND WOLVERINE.
ULP!

C'EST LA VIE.
AT LEAST I GOT THE TOWEL.
WHAT HAVE YOU DONE WITH HER, LE PEREGRINE?
QUI, MOI?
THE LYNX, RACINE--YOU STOLE HER OUT FROM UNDER WOLVERINE AND ME!
JE NE SAIS PAS,
WE TRACED YOU HERE BY THE FLIGHT PLAN YOU FILED.
AGAIN, WHERE IS SHE?
IN ENGLISH!
IN ENGLISH...
"...WHO'S TO SAY?"
SNFF SNFF
DO YOU THINK I AM SO STUPID, THAT I WOULD FALL FOR THE OLD "GOOD COP/BAD COP ROUTINE?
NOW THAT YOU'VE ROUGHED ME UP-- WOLVERINE HERE IS SUPPOSED TO ASK ME NICELY?
YOU GOT IT HALF RIGHT, PEREGRINE.
EXCEPTIN' THAT COURIER OVER THERE--
--WAS THE GOOD GUY.
YOU PROMISED, SON--NO CLAWS!
OH, THAT GIRL.
SNIKT
SUDDENLY, IT IS ALL COMING BACK TO ME.

ACTUALLY, I WAS ONLY TRYIN' TO GET YOU GUYS MOVIN' BEFORE--
SKRASH
--THE ARRIVAL OF US THREE...
...THE FLESH TONES!
YAS?
PLEASE TELL ME THEY ARE PART OF THE ACT.
CAME TO KILL ONE! FOUND TRIO INSTEAD.
SLASH
SORRY TO DISAPPOINT YA, BUB.
UNEXPECTED IS ALWAYS FUN.
SEE? YOU DIDN'T KNOW FLESH TONES CONTROL OUR EVERY MOLECULE.
ALMOST CONTROL.
IT'S WHY MR. CHAMPION PAYS US SO MUCH!
THAT SHINE-- HE WAS GOING TO HAVE ME KILLED,
THAT WAS THE IDEA.
ONLY NOW YOU'LL HAVE TO WAIT YOUR TURN.
NO WITNESSES.
CAN BARELY... UNNGH!
...BREATHE.

YEEOWWZA!
THIS HURTS!
IT'S SUPPOSED TO.
THESE "CREATURES" SEEM TO BE INDESTRUCTIBLE!
LET'S SEE HOW THEY FARE AGAINST MY LIGHTNING BOLT.
TZZAT
?
YA STUNNED HIM.
PROBABLY.
SUGGESTIONS?!
YOU AND I AGREED TO TEAM UP TO FIND THE GIRL.
I SAY THESE GUYS ARE LE PEREGRINE'S PROBLEM!
LET'S GO FIND THE LYNX!
LET'S NOT!
SPPLAT
=OUNGHN=
=UFF=
NOT A CONCERN. IN A MOMENT, YOU WON'T BE ANY AGE.
THIS IS NOT SOMETHING I SHOULD BE DOING AT MY AGE.
"IDEALLY, NOW WOULD BE THE PERFECT TIME TO MAKE MY ESCAPE..."
"...AND HOPE AGAINST HOPE THAT CHAMPION'S CHECK CLEARS,
"BUT I HAVE THIS QUIRK REGARDING EMPLOYERS WHO TRY TO KILL ME."


IT'S BAD BUSINESS.
UH... HAND THEM!
OR WHATEVER IT IS YOU WERE DOING!
THWAK
SHHUNK
OBVIOUSLY, OUR MUTUAL EMPLOYER DID NOT RECKON WITH MY MASTERY OF SAVATE!
WOW.
WOINK
THAT PROBABLY WORKS REAL GOOD ON A NORMAL PERSON
MES AMIS, AS IT APPEARS WE HAVE A COMMON ENEMY...?
BUT, OF COURSE.
IT LOOKS AS THOUGH WE MIGHT PULL THIS OFF.
THEN AGAIN--
--WITH THE FLESH TONES SCREAMING IN AGONY...
...BLASTED FROM BE-HIND BY SOMEONE--
--WE MAY NOT HAVE TO DO A THING.
YOU'RE SUGGESTIN' WE TEAM UP?
FINE, BUT WHEN THIS IS ALL OVER, THE COURIER AND I GET THE GIRL.


EVEN IF I DIDN'T RECOGNIZE THE AFTER-EFFECTS OF HER TRADE-MARKED BIO-BLAST--
--I'D REMEMBER THAT SCENT ANY-WHERE.
GENTLEMEN...
...MEET NATASHA ROMANOFF...
...THE BLACK WIDOW
MY PLEASURE.
MY WIDOW'S BITE DID NOT SPOIL ANYONE'S FUN?
NOT AT ALL.
GOOD... BECAUSE I AM HERE AS AN OFFICIAL REPRESENTATIVE OF S.H.I.E.L.D. ASSIGNED TO BRING IN THE LYNX.
I TRUST THERE ARE NO OB-JECTIONS?
NOT TO SEEM UNGRATEFUL, WIDOW--
--BUT YER LOOKIN' AT THREE "OBJECTIONS," RIGHT HERE.
THAT IS TELLING HER, MON AMI.
SNIKT
CONTINUES NEXT ISSUE...

SHE-HULK
IN
ADRENAZON'S REVENGE PT.III
IT'S NOT EASY BEING GREEN
ARRIVING AT JENNIFER WALTERS' APARTMENT, WEEZIE MASON FOUND SOMEONE AT HOME. SHE THOUGHT SHE-HULK'S NIGHTMARE WAS OVER. SHE THOUGHT SHE-HULK HAD BEEN RELEASED FROM PRISON. SHE THOUGHT THIS WAS SHE-HULK
ST...ST... STAY BACK. DON'T COME NEAR ME.
SHE THOUGHT WRONG.

WEEZIE! HOW NICE OF YOU TO DROP BY!
WHA--?
I'M GLAD YOU'RE HERE YOU CAN HELP ME PICK OUT SOMETHING TO WEAR TODAY
WHAT IS SHE DOING?
LET'S SEE, SHOULD I WEAR MY HAIR UP TODAY FOR A BUSINESS LOOK? OR SHOULD I--
WHAT'S HAPPENING TO HER?
NO! NOT YOU AGAIN! I HATE YOU! GO AWAY.
AAAUHGH! THE PAIN! IT HURTS SO MUCH! IT KEEPS GETTING WORSE!
I'LL MAKE YOU GO AWAY! I'M JENNIFER WALTERS! THIS IS MY HOME!
IT'S THE FORMULA. IT'S STARTING TO BREAK DOWN IN HER SYSTEM JUST LIKE IT DID TO THOSE ANIMALS FROM DR. STOPPLEMOOR'S LAB
IT MUST BE DESTROYING HER MIND FEEDING HER OBSESSION WITH BECOMING SHE-HULK. SHE'S STARTING TO THINK SHE'S THE REAL JENNIFER WALTERS

I'VE GOT TO GET WORD TO NOSFERATA DOWNSTAIRS WITHOUT "SHE-HULK" NOTICING.
THIS ALWAYS WORKED IN GRAD SCHOOL
I GUESS THAT'S THE PLAN THEN. I GO BREAK SHE-HULK OUT OF JAIL AND WEEZLE KEEPS SHE-HULK'S DOPPLEGANGER OCCUPIED BY PLAYING HOUSE.
THE TOMBS
STILL SO GROGGY THESE SHACKLES ARE SOMEHOW DRAINING THE LITTLE STRENGTH I HAVE LEFT
WAKE UP, LADY. T ME TO FEED THE ANIMALS.
I'M NOT HUNGRY, BUT I'D TRADE YOU ALL OF MY CREDIT CARDS FOR JUST ONE OF THOSE
BLEEP
THE KEY TO GETTING DESSERT IS EATING ALL OF YOUR DINNER AFTER ALL, "BIG BROTHER S WATCH NG
THE GUARD EXITS AND SAFELY CLOSES THE ELECTRONIC CELL DOOR.
THOSE LITTLE "KEY CARDS" DO ALL SORTS OF CUTE TRICKS
CLIK
CLIK
MAY AS WELL EAT TO KEEP UP MY STRENGTH. I MAY NEED IT IF I EVER PLAN TO GET OUT OF HERE.
OF COURSE THE FOOD COULD BE DRUGGED TOO-- HUH?

WHAT'S HAPPENING? WHY WOULD THAT GUARD GIVE ME AN ACCESS CARD?
WAIT... OF COURSE!
KEEP IT COOL BABE REMEMBER, THE CAMERAS ARE STILL ROLLING.
NOSFERATA?! HOW DID YOU...?
NO TIME TO EXPLAIN, LET'S JUST SAY.. I'M GOOD.
I TOOK CARE OF A FEW CHOICE GUARDS THERE'S A CLEAR PATH TO THE EAST GATE. WAIT FOR ME TO LEAVE, THEN MEET ME OUTSIDE.
AND HURRY, FROM WHAT I OVERHEARD THE GUARDS TALKING ABOUT, YOU DON'T HAVE MUCH TIME LEFT.
THEY'RE GOING TO EXECUTE ME?!
NO, WORSE... THEY'RE DELIVERING YOUR PRISON GRAYS.
BACK AT JEN'S APARTMENT...
ISN'T THIS FUN WEEZIE?! NEXT WE'LL BAKE A CAKE AND LICK THE ICING FROM THE BOWL! WE'LL RENT SOME MOVIES AND DO EACH OTHER'S HAIR. WE'LL PAINT OUR NAILS AND TALK ABOUT GUYS ..
DON'T KNOW WHAT'S WORSE. THIS MONSTER THINKING SHE IS SHE-HULK OR THIS MONSTER THINKING THIS IS WHAT REAL WOMEN DO ALL DAY LONG
I'M THE COOK
I'M NOT SURE HOW MUCH LONGER I CAN TAKE THIS WHERE ARE YOU, JEN?
WEEZIE, DO YOU KNOW HOW TO DO NEEDLEPOINT?
Sigh

I GUESS I'LL LOOK MORE GUILTY THAN EVER NOW THAT I'VE BROKEN OUT OF JAIL.
DON'T WORRY. EVERYTHING WILL BE CLEARED UP WHEN WE CAPTURE ADRENAZON.
I'LL DO MORE THAN CAPTURE HER IF SHE HARMS WEEZIE.
WEEZIE CAN HANDLE IT. I'M SURE SHE HAS EVERYTHING UNDER CONTROL.
COME ON, GUYS. WHERE ARE YOU? HOW LONG CAN IT TAKE TO BREAK OUT OF A NEWLY-RENOVATED MAXIMUM-SECURITY SUPER-VILLAIN HOLDING CELL?
SORRY, YOU LOSE.
NO! I CAN'T LOSE. SHE-HULK NEVER LOSES! SHE-HULK IS PERFECT!
BAM
I CAN'T LOSE--AUUGHHH!
IT'S THE FORMULA AGAIN! HER BEHAVIOR IS BECOMING MORE ERRATIC.
HERE, LET ME HELP YOU!
SHUT UP! LEAVE ME ALONE! I HAVE WHAT I NEED! IF I CAN'T BEAT YOU ONE WAY, I'LL BEAT YOU ANOTHER!

STOP!
WHO...?!
OH, THANK GOOD-NESS!
OKAY, ADRENAZON, THIS GAME ENDS NOW!
CAREFUL, SHE-HULK. SHE LOOKS SO CRAZED.
I CAN HANDLE HER! IT'S TIME I TOOK MY LIFE BACK!
COME ON, WEEZIE. I'LL GET YOU OUT OF HERE.
YOU IMPOSTER! HOW DARE YOU BREAK INTO MY HOME!

GET OUT OF HERE! I'M JENNIFER WALTERS! THIS IS MY APARTMENT! YOU DON'T BELONG HERE!
LOOK, YOU NEED HELP. YOU'RE CONFUSED.
THE REAL JENNIFER WALTERS WOULD NEVER ATTACK WEEZIE.
I'M SHE-HULK! YOU'RE ADRENAZON!
NOOOOOOOOOOO!
--UGK!
WHAM
KRAK

WOW! I ACTUALLY FELT THAT
SEEING ME IS DISRUPTING THIS FANTASY SHE'S BEEN LIVING SHE'S BECOMING ANGRIER AND STRONGER. I'VE GOT TO STOP HER BEFORE SHE BECOMES--
KABLAM
KAWA!

CONCLUDES NEXT ISSUE...

MARVEL
MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS
AND
GHOST RIDER
TYPHOID MARY
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IRON FIST

MARVEL READERS PRESENT

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Dear Terry and Mark,

Well, first off, MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS #120 was much, much better than MCP #119. Almost every story was of interest.

1) Covers: Wolverine/Venom: A+. Ghost Rider/Cloak & Dagger: A+. I wish Madureira and Collazo were doing the Ghost Rider story.

2) Wolverine/Venom : After the last installment, this was a vast improvement. I liked that Wolverine saved Venom from the crocs, but still let him know who's boss with a quick claw-jab to the stomach. Rating A.

3) The Constrictor: So, the Constrictor was a good guy after all. Cool! Any chance of him turning hero and joining a super-team? The art by Powers and Tuohy was excellent. Someone should give you guys a monthly title, or at least let you do a Wolverine or Ghost Rider storyline. Rating: A.

Flip it over!

4) Ghost Rider/Cloak & Dagger: Sorry, but this story still isn't working for me. Dagger usually is a much stronger character than this; she's been reduced to a damsel-in-distress. The art by Morrissey and Branch is leaving me COLD. Rating: C.

5) Spider-Man: Cute, funny, and well-written; this is what the one-shots should be like. Before reading this, I had forgotten how much Peter has changed. The art by Murr and Ivy was adequate. Rating: B+.

Overall rating: A-.

I'm looking forward to the Mirage and Andromeda stories next issue. Mirage was one of my favorite characters in the NEW MUTANTS, so I'd love to see her again. Andromeda interested me during her few appearances in the NEW DEFENDERS, but the book was cancelled before we really got to know her.

Good luck on future issues.

Kevin Hall
5437-F Bradley Pines Circle
Sandston, VA 23150

Sorry you didn't enjoy the Ghost Rider/Cloak and Dagger story, Kevin. And as for Joe Madureira and Hector Collazo, we'd like to get them to do a lead feature, too...If they weren't so busy elsewhere! You'll find Joe's work in the forthcoming DEADPOOL Limited Series, and Hector's in upcoming AVENGERS projects.

Dear Terry,

Being an occasional reader of MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS, I would like to express my pleasant surprise at one of the stories in issue #120. The Spider-Man story by Kieth Planit (is that his real name?) and Ed Murr was a delightful diversion from the typical teeth-clenched, tight-fisted action tales that are common in the book. The Spider-Man in this story was a human being, facing a problem he was helpless to stop.

The pace of the story was very impressive for an eight-page work, and the writing didn't suffer from an excess, or lack of, dialogue. The action was light and fun—although I must comment that I have never seen Spider-Man grab a gun, he almost always webs it.

The triggering of the little boy's memory from AMAZING FANTASY #15 was both an amusing and ingenious touch, providing the right tone for the ending. The almost Ditko-esque drawing of "Spider-Man Unmasked" was just the right payoff for the self-contained short story.

If only more of the one-shots would be as concise and intelligent as the one provided by Mr. Planit, they might be considered as stories to look forward to, rather than eight pages taking up filler space.

Alex Chapman
1015 W. 34th St.
Los Angeles, CA 90007

GHOST RIDER

Steve Lightle — COVER
Terry Kavanagh — EDITOR
Mark Powers — ASSISTANT EDITOR
Tom DeFalco — EDITOR IN CHIEF

pg.

GHOST RIDER/ TYPHOID MARY 1

THE WALKING WOUNDED
Part 3 of 8
"INNOCENT BLOOD"

Ghost Rider has spilled innocent blood, but who will take vengeance on him? Especially when rampant insanity has attacked everyone, and the lines are drawn for an all-out battle of the sexes!

Writer — ANN NOCENTI
Breakdowns — STEVE LIGHTLE
Inkers – CHRIS IVY/KEN BRANCH
Letterer —JOHN BABCOCK
Colorist — MIKE THOMAS

pg.

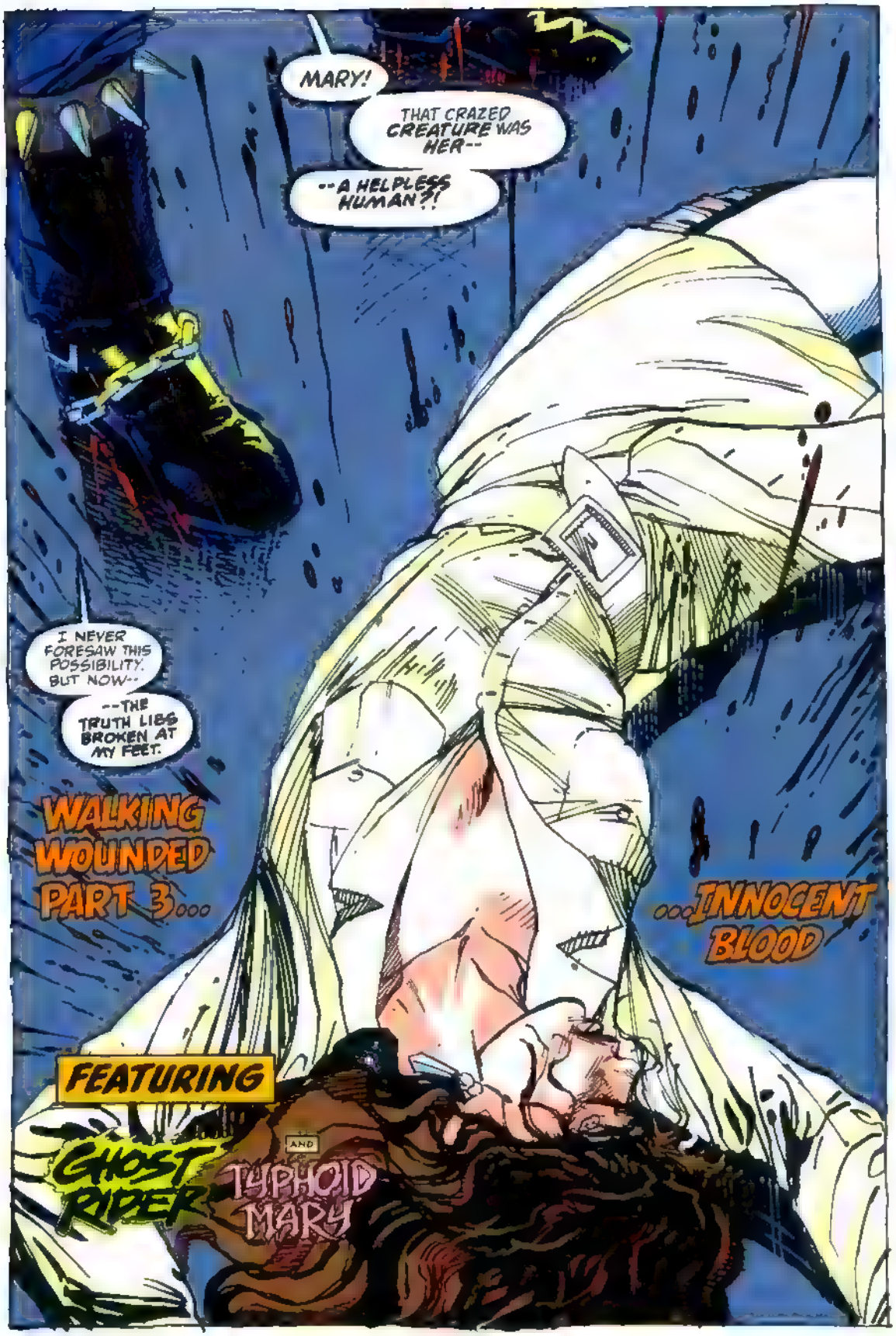
IRON FIST 9

THE BOOK OF CHANGES
Part 1 of 6
"UNDER LOCK AND KEY"

Since Daniel Rand returned from a near-death experience, he's done his best to pick up his life where he left off. However, certain elements have compromised his company, Rand-Meachum, in his absence...

Writer —JOEY CAVALIERI
Penciler — DAVE HOOVER
Inker—JEFF ALBRECHT
Letterer — MICHAEL HIGGINS
Colorist — MIKE THOMAS

NEXT ISSUE: WOLVERINE, LE PEREGRINE, AND THE COURIER COME TO BLOWS WITH THE BLACK WIDOW! GHOST RIDER FACES THE WRATH OF AN ANGRY MOB! IRON FIST VS. A.I.M.! AND SHE-HULK's FINAL CONFRONTATION WITH ADRENAZON!


MARY!
THAT CRAZED CREATURE WAS HER--
--A HELPLESS HUMAN?!
I NEVER FORESAW THIS POSSIBILITY. BUT NOW--
--THE TRUTH LIES BROKEN AT MY FEET.
WALKING WOUNDED PART 3...
...INNOCENT BLOOD
FEATURING
GHOST RIDER
AND
TYPHOID MARY

INNOCENT BLOOD..
..INNOCENT BLOOD..
GOOD LORD-- YOUR FACE-- WHO ARE YOU?
HER BLOOD.. IS RISING?
LOOK WHAT YOU'VE DONE TO THIS GIRL!
I CAN'T LOOK DIRECTLY AT YOU--FOR YOU CAN ONLY BE A DEMON!
BY ALL THAT'S HOLY, I WILL FIGHT YOU!
FATHER, THE INNOCENT HAVE NOTHING TO FEAR FROM ME.
THEN WHAT HAPPENED TO THIS GIRL?
WE WERE ONLY HAVING FUN...
...AND SHE KILLED THE OTHERS!
WHEN SHE WAKES UP-- SHE'LL KILL ME!
AM I GOING MAD, OR WHAT?
STUPID WOMAN... SHE WOULDA LIKED IT IF SHE JUST RELAXED AND LET US--
WHO'S THAT?
MAKE THEM STOP!
AAAAAA
GOTTA GET OUTTA HERE...
...THEY'RE AFTER ME!
I WANTED TO MAKE HER HAPPY--
--I DON'T DESERVE TO DIE FOR IT!
GOOD LORD!
MOMMY HE'S GOT A GUN!

BLAM!
I SPILLED INNOCENT BLOOD.
I MUST PAY.
WHAT IN THE NAME OF THE LORD? A GEYSER OF--?!
THIS CANNOT BE REAL!
THE APOCALYPSE!
NO ONE WILL PUNISH ME!
ARE WE TO BE JUDGED? IS THAT WHO YOU ARE-- JUDGEMENT?
GOD HELP ME, THIS IS MADNESS!
INNOCENT BLOOD SPILLED...
THE FINAL BATTLE!
LOUIS... HELP ME, LOUIS..
MY LORD GOD, WHERE ARE YOU?
HELP ME FIND STRENGTH...
DADDY!

SO, YOU THINK A GUY SHOULD DIE FOR KISSING SOME SLUT?
IT'S A MAN'S RIGHT, 'SPECIALLY WHEN THEM GALS DRESS LIKE THEY'RE ASKIN' FOR IT.
I'LL KILL YOU ALL!
MOVE YER BUTTS, LADIES--
--HELP ME GET MARY TO SAFETY!
WHAT'S GOING ON? WHY'S THAT GUY SHOOTING?
IT'S WAR, LADIES. THE FINAL BATTLE.
POOR MARY IS JUST THE FIRST FALLEN--AND FOR THIS SHE IS A HERO.
SHE FOUGHT BACK--JUST LIKE WE'RE GONNA DO.
BUT ANDREA--SHE KILLED TWO MEN!
SHE WAS VIOLATED IT WAS HER RIGHT!
BLAM BLAM
SINCE WHEN CAN'T A MAN HAVE A LITTLE RIGHTEOUS FUN?
I WON'T DIE FOR KISSING SOME SLUT!
STAY AWAY!
I'M THE GUARD HERE! I'M SECURITY! I'M IN CHARGE!
HAVE YOU ALL GONE MAD? WOULD YOU ALL SEE ME HANG?
KLIK! KLIK!

GASP!
I MUST PRAY! FOR SALVATION! GASP!
IN WHOM SHALL I FEAR..? HAFF KAFF! NAY FOR I WALK.. KAFF KOFF!
YOU WHO SHOW ME THIS HADES, THIS FALSE JUDGEMENT DAY--I RESIST YOU!
THE WORLD I DWELL IN IS NOT GODLESS--THIS IS BUT A TEST!
THIS IS THE BATTLE I WAS BORN FOR!
INNOCENT BLOOD...
WHAT'S WRONG WITH HIM?
..INNOCENT BLOOD..
...I MUST PRAY.
I HURT MARY. SHE WAS SO SWEET, SO LOVELY!
I MUST STOP MYSELF!
YOU--A NORMAL MAN, NOW?
WHERE IS YOUR DEMON SKULL?
MY POWER--IT IS NOT WITHOUT FAULT.
WHEN I AM THE GHOST RIDER, I HAVE SUCH CONFIDENCE IN MY VISION--
--BUT NOW I ONLY HAVE DOUBT.
LISTEN! YOU MUST HELP ME RESIST THIS NIGHTMARE!
THERE ARE MANY OUT THERE THAT NEED OUR HELP!
INCLUDING MY FAMILY!

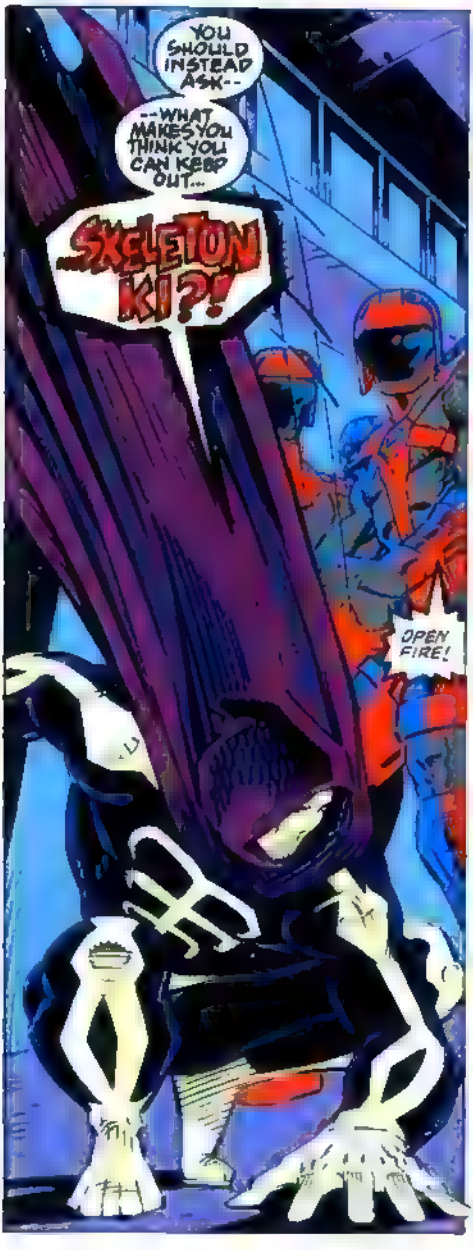
WHERE'S MY DADDY?
HUSH, MATT I DON'T KNOW
POOR MARY DO YOU THINK SHE'LL BE OKAY?
I DON'T UNDERSTAND HOW SHE WAS STRONG ENOUGH TO KILL--
I'VE GOT TO FIND MY HUSBAND...
YEAH! LET'S GO!
NO WAY! THE MEN WILL JUST HAVE TO TAKE THEIR CHANCES--JUST LIKE WE HAVE!
DON'T YOU UNDERSTAND? THIS IS IT!
THE FINAL BATTLE OF THE SEXES!
IF IT'S MALE-- DON'T TRUST IT!
LOOK WHAT THOSE ANIMALS DID TO MARY!
BUT SHE KILLED THEM
...AND WHO WAS THAT GUY WITH THE FLAMING MASK ON HIS HEAD?
MARY?
IT'S MAN AGAINST WOMAN NOW. IT HAD TO HAPPEN.
MEN ARE KILLERS BY NATURE.
WE FORTIFY HERE. I'M AFRAID I CAN'T LET ANY OF YOU TAKE ANY MORE FOOLISH RISKS.
BUT... ANDREA.. THIS ISN'T SOME KIND OF WAR!
HAVE YOU LOST YOUR MIND?
IT IS WAR THESE ARE THE END TIMES.
"HEY! I THINK MARY IS WAKING UP!"

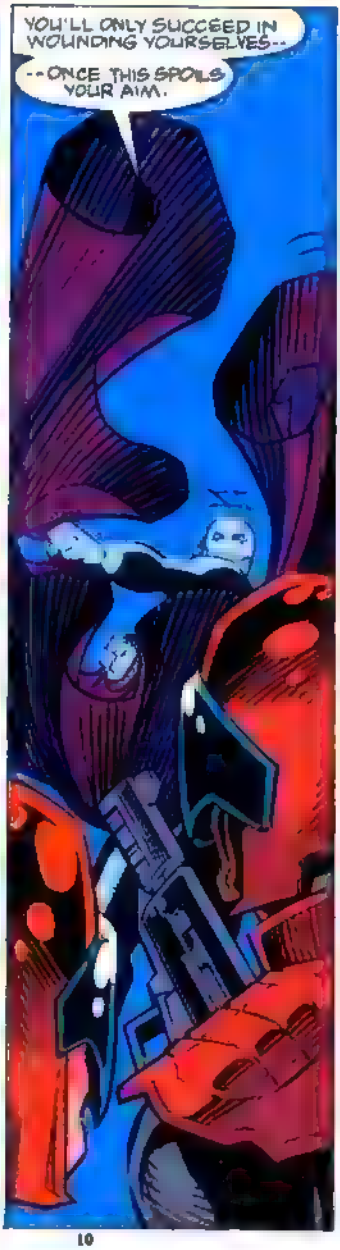
GOTTA RELOAD!
DARK OFFER
THERE!
I'M IN CONTROL AGAIN.
I'M LOADED NOW.
NO MOB CAN LYNCH ME!
HEY! WHAT WAS THAT?
BUT I'M READY FOR 'EM!
THEY'RE BACK IT'S THE WOMEN. THEY WANNA PERSECUTE ME!
HARPIES!
AIIIIIE
BLAM! BLAM! BLAM

HELLO SWEETHEART.
IS IT WOMEN YOU FEAR?
THEN IT'S TIME WE MET
I LOVE THE AROMA OF YOUR PARANOIA...
... IT IS THE MOST DELICIOUS FORM OF MADNESS.
I CRAVE THE SWEET TASTE OF YOUR BURROWING FEAR, I FEAST ON YOUR BREWING GUILT, I SWALLOW YOUR SIZZLING DELUSIONS, YOUR LUSCIOUS OBSESSIONS..
...WITH EACH MOUTHFUL YOU MOVE CLOSER TO ME...
BLAM
MARY!
WHEN DID YOU WAKE UP?
A WHILE AGO.
YOU FEEL OKAY?
I FEEL A LITTLE BESIDE MYSELF -- BUT MUCH BETTER!
CONTINUES NEXT ISSUE.

AS YOU CAN SEE GENTLEMEN, RAND'S SECURITY DIRECTOR COMMANDER MARINA TERESHKOVA HAS KEPT THE ANOMALY
UNDER LOCK AND KEY
THE BOOK OF CHANGES Pt 1
FEATURING IRON FIST
GUARDS ARE POSTED TWENTY-FOUR HOURS A DAY IN EIGHT HOUR SHIFTS.
AS TO THE ANOMALY'S ORIGINS, IT'S DEFIED X-RAYS, SPECTROSCOPY AND CARBON-DATING.
IT FELLED AN ORACLE WEATHER SATELLITE, BUT WHETHER IT IS IN FACT AN ALIEN ARTIFACT... WE JUST CAN'T TELL.
HMMMMMM
EYES LEFT, MEN. IF THAT THING GETS STOLEN...
...YOU WOULDN'T WANT IT TO COME OUT OF YOUR PITIFUL PAY-CHECKS.
WHO'S SHE KIDDIN'? NOBODY COULD GET IN HERE.
THIS PLACE COULD HOLD THE CROWN JEWELS...EVEN IF THEY WERE RADIOACTIVE!
DR. FARO, WHAT CAUSES THAT INTERMITTENT HUM FROM THE... THE... ANOMALY... AS YOU CALLED IT?
IT'S AS MUCH A MYSTERY AS ANYTHING ELSE ABOUT IT...
HMMMMMM
A MESSAGE... A SIGNAL, PERHAPS, TO SOMETHING ON THE OUTSIDE
IF SO, IT'S ATTRACTED NOTHING... NOTHING CAN PENETRATE THESE WALLS!

MEN OF SCIENCE ALWAYS REGARD THE WAYS OF THE OCCULT AS "NOTHING"...
...TO THEIR EVERLASTING REGRET!
HOW DID ME GET IN HERE?

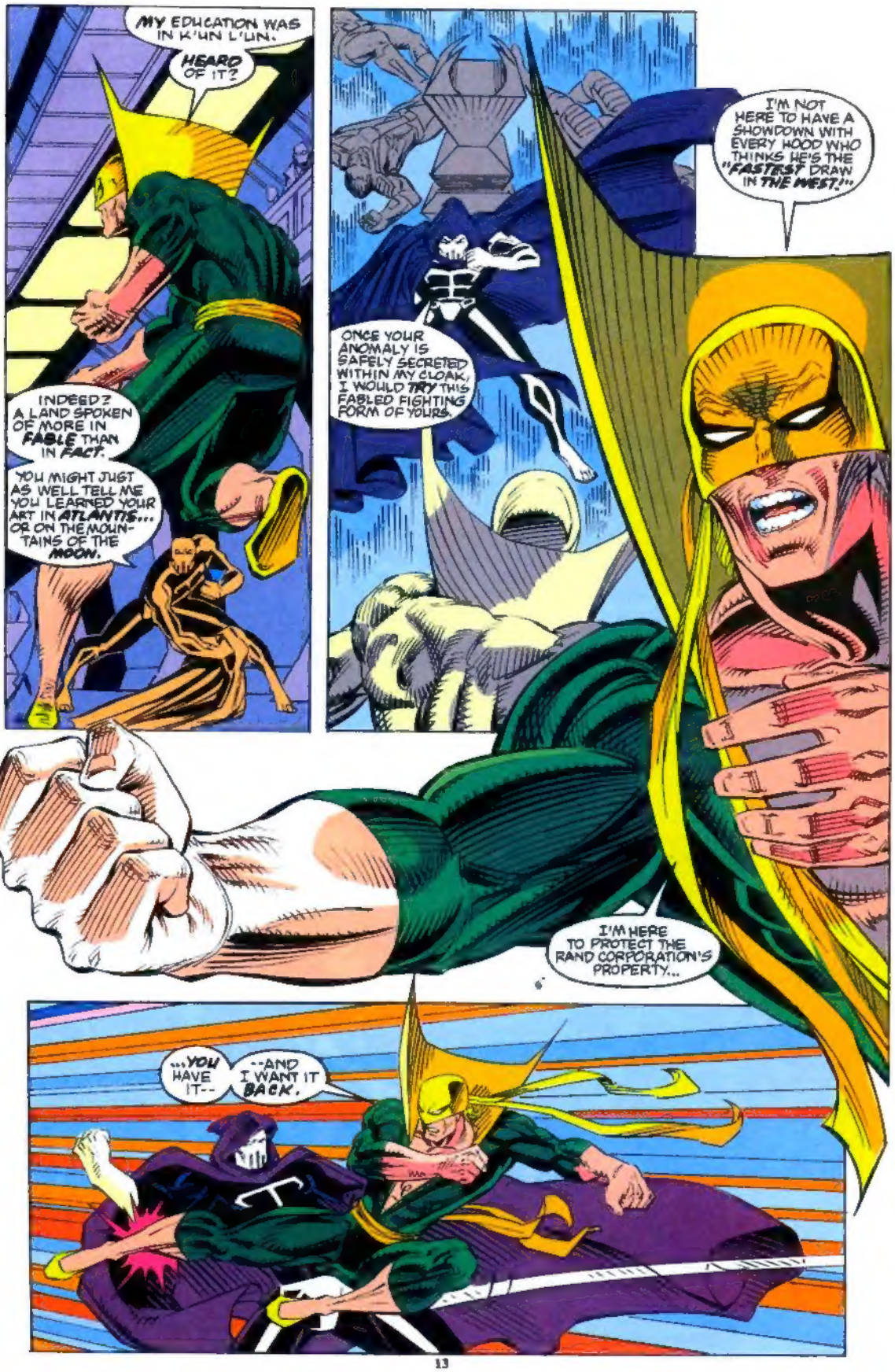

YOU SHOULD INSTEAD ASK--
--WHAT MAKES YOU THINK YOU CAN KEEP OUT...
SKELETON KI?!
OPEN FIRE!


YOU'LL ONLY SUCCEED IN WOUNDING YOURSELVES--
--ONCE THIS SPOILS YOUR AIM.

SO MANY YEARS HAVE PASSED SINCE THE CREATION OF THE COSMIC CUBE.
I REGRET THAT I WASN'T AROUND THEN... TO STEAL IT.
BUT THIS PRIZE MAY PROVE JUST AS VALUABLE!

ELSEWHERE WITHIN THE COMPOUND...
IS...THIS WHAT YOU WERE TRYING TO DO, RANDY?
YOU'VE GOT A LOT OF TRAINING AHEAD BEFORE YOU CAN ADVANCE TO THE NEXT LEVEL.
CUT ME SOME SLACK, IRON FIST!
CAN YOU IMAGINE BOB COSTAS DOING AN "UP CLOSE N' PERSONAL INTERVIEW WITH RANDY OBERLIN...GOLD MEDALIST IN THE GARDEN-SLICING COMPETITION?
CALL ME OLD-FASHIONED BUT THE MARTIAL ARTS AND ANY KIND OF CRASS COMPETITION MENTIONED IN THE SAME SENTENCE MAKE ME--
REEEeEEe
THAT'S MARTINA'S SIGNAL!
IT'S COMING FROM THE ANOMALY VAULT!
SEND AN ALARM WILL YOU?
NOW YOUR HEADS WILL SOUND LIKE ALARM BELLS.. FOR WEEKS.
HOLD IT RIGHT THERE!
I PREFER TO HOLD THE ANOMALY RIGHT HERE!
THANK YOU FOR PROVIDING SUCH EASY ACCESS TO IT!

"EASY," THE MAN SAID!
HE'S MADE SHORT WORK OF THE ENTIRE SECURITY SHIFT... AND MS. TERESHKOVA
I'LL GET HIM.
NO, RANDY, DON'T!
WHY NOT, IRON FIST? ALLOW ME TO HAND YOUR PROTEGE HERE THE BEATING OF HIS LIFE!
THE PAIN WILL TEACH HIM MORE THAN YOU EVER COULD!
MARTINA... ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
UHHHHH... HE'S TOO FAST TO EVEN SHOOT AT!
FOR EXAMPLE... HE WILL LEARN HUMILITY...
...WHEN HE IS TAKEN IN...
...BY A TRICK DESIGNED TO FOOL A KINDERGARDEN CHILD!
I DID NOT GET A REPUTATION AS A MASTER THIEF FROM SAMARKAND TO SINKIANG...
...JUST TO LOSE IT TO SOME PREP SCHOOL PUP!


MY EDUCATION WAS IN K'UN L'UN.
HEARD OF IT?
INDEED? A LAND SPOKEN OF MORE IN FABLE THAN IN FACT.
YOU MIGHT JUST AS WELL TELL ME YOU LEARNED YOUR ART IN ATLANTIS... OR ON THE MOUNTAINS OF THE MOON.
ONCE YOUR ANOMALY IS SAFELY SECRETED WITHIN MY CLOAK, I WOULD TRY THIS FABLED FIGHTING FORM OF YOURS.
I'M NOT HERE TO HAVE A SHOWDOWN WITH EVERY HOOD WHO THINKS HE'S THE "FASTEST DRAW IN THE WEST!"
I'M HERE TO PROTECT THE RAND CORPORATION'S PROPERTY...
...YOU HAVE IT--
--AND I WANT IT BACK.

I'VE TAKEN CROWNS OFF THE HEADS OF KINGS WITHOUT THEIR NOTICE.
I'VE STOLEN SWORDS OUT OF THE HANDS OF HUSSARS AND HIGHWAYMEN.
OTHER PEOPLE'S PROPERTY HAS A WAY OF REMAINING MY PROPERTY!
THIEVES HAVE NOTHING OF THEIR OWN TO BRAG ABOUT!
MY FIGHTING SKILL IS MY OWN... AND NO ONE CAN TAKE THAT FROM ME!
HAH? WHO WOULD WANT IT?
YOU'LL FIND THAT CRIME HAS A WAY OF SHARPENING ONE'S SKILLS...
...IN A WAY THAT BEING SOME CORPORATION'S WATCHDOG NEVER CAN.
GOODBYE, IRON FIST.
WE MAY FIGHT AGAIN... WHEN YOU LEARN TO GET THE HANG OF IT!
YOU'RE NOT GOING ANYWHERE!
THAT'S A STEEL AND ADAMANTIUM DOOR-- SIX INCHES THICK!
YOU MIGHT JUST AS WELL HAVE TOLD ME THE DOOR'S COLOR, FOR ALL IT MATTERS...
I AM CALLED SKELETON KI...
... BECAUSE NO LOCK CAN HOLD ME!

STILL YOU PERSIST?
WHAT FEALTY BINDS YOU TO THIS STUPID ORGANIZATION?
A LIFE OF CRIME IS INFINITELY MORE REWARDING!
FINE.
HERE'S YOUR REWARD.
THE ANOMALY! WHAT POSSIBLE WORTH IS IT TO YOU?
SOMEONE MUST BE PAYING YOU A GREAT DEAL TO LIFT IT!
WHO?
YOU'LL FIND OUT SOON ENOUGH!
WHY? WANT TO JOIN THE OPPOSITION AT LAST?
WHAT DO THEY WANT IT FOR? WHAT DOES IT DO?
GODS OF K'UN L'UN!
IT'S THE MOST BRAZEN RAID I'VE EVER SEEN IN MY LIFE!
YOU CAN BARELY SEE THE STARS FOR ALL OF THEM.
AND THEY ALL WORK FOR...

HYDRA DEMANDS YOU STEP ASIDE!
WHO'S GOING TO MAKE ME?
RAFFLES HERE?
NOT LIKELY.
STEP UP AND GET SOME OF THIS, THE REST OF YOU.
HAIL HYDRA! IMMORTAL HYDRA!
WE WILL NEVER BE DESTROYED!
CUT OFF A LIMB AND TWO MORE SHALL TAKE ITS PLACE.
NOW THAT SOUNDS ATTRACTIVE!
YOU'LL BE LOSING A LOT OF LIMBS BEFORE THE NIGHT'S OVER!
WAIT! THE CLOAK! KY SAID HE WAS KEEPING THE ANOMALY IN IT!
IT BELONGS TO HYDRA NOW!
SO KEEP THE CLOAK.
GIVE ME WHAT BELONGS TO RAND!
I'VE FOUGHT NINE MEN TONIGHT FOR THIS... AND I'M STILL NO CLOSER TO THE KNOWLEDGE I NEED.
WHAT THE HECK IS THIS THING?
CONTINUES NEXT ISSUE...